

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 9, 16, 18, 19, 21-25 and 31 as shown above. Entry of this Preliminary Amendment is requested prior to examination on the merits. No new matter has been added.

Applicant concurrently files herewith an Information Disclosure Statement citing references identified in an Office Action (dated April 27, 2004) , that was issued in counterpart Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-127752. The cited references, included on the accompanying PTO-1449 include: 1)- JPA 4-142865; 2)- JPA 11-239244; 3)- JPA 11-355570; and, 4)- JPA 2001-166398. Corresponding English abstracts are provided for each reference, as well as a copy of the Office Action received in the counterpart Japanese Patent Application. As evident from the Office Action, references 3) and 4) did not form the basis for the claim rejections contained therein.

Applicant respectfully submits that none of the references cited in the accompanying IDS discloses a configuration which measures an elapsed time since a previous OFF timing of the illumination light source, sets a wait time in correspondence with the measured elapsed time and the currently set image processing mode, and controls the photoelectric converter to begin to read the reference member after a lapse of the wait time since the illumination light source is turned on again.

Applicant believes the claims as presented herein to be patentably distinguishable over the prior art.

In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate prosecution of the instant application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

AUTHORIZATION

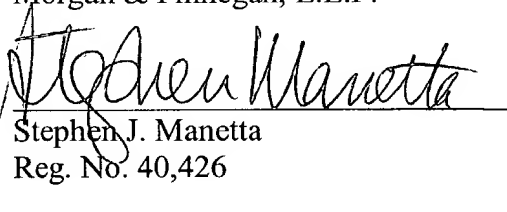
Applicant believes that no fees are necessary for the submission of this Preliminary Amendment or accompanying IDS, however, should any fees be due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such fees which may be required for this Preliminary Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4711.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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